REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-10 and 17.

Applicants have amended claims 11, 15 and 18.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 11 and 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and has indicated that both would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has objected to claims 12-14 for depending from claim 11 and the Examiner has objected to claims 19-21 for depending from claim 18.

Applicants have, therefore, rewritten claims 11 and 18 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim, claim 1, and the limitations of the intervening claims, claims 2-10.

Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim, claim 1, and the limitations of the intervening claim, claim 17.

Claim 15 has been amended to depend from rewritten claim 11, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable as rewritten, rather than from cancelled claim 3.

Claims 12-14, 16, 22 and 23 have not been amended (claim 22 was previously amended). Claims 12-14, 16, 22 and 23 depend from rewritten claim 11, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable as rewritten.

Claims 19-21 have not been amended. Claims 19-21 depend from rewritten claim 18, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable as rewritten.

This amendment contains no new matter. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 15 under 35 USC Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,259,685 Gilb. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3 and have amended claim 15 to depend from rewritten claim 11, which

the Examiner has indicated is allowable as rewritten, rather than from cancelled claim 3.

Claim Rejections and Objections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 17 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,259,685 Gilb. Applicants have cancelled claim 4 and 17.

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-10 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,259,685 Gilb in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,486,509 Whittaker. Applicants have cancelled claims 5-10.

The Examiner has rejected claim 16 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,259,685 Gilb in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,413,362 Maxwell et al. Claim 16 depends from rewritten claim 11, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable as rewritten.

The Examiner has rejected claims 22 and 23 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,259,685 Gilb in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,413,362 Maxwell et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,486,509 Whittaker. Claims 22 and 23 depend from rewritten claim 11, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable as rewritten.

Drawings

The Examiner has indicated that the drawings filed on October 6, 2003 are acceptable, and Applicant's thank the Examiner for this indication.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at (510) 832-4111.

Respectfully submitted,

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